

Robbins, 2; MLNS 120481-2). PERU: Abra Patricia, dpto. San Martín (K. J. Zimmer, 1). ECUADOR: prov. Morona-Santiago (M. B. Robbins, 2; MLNS 41285 & 41287).

Syndactyla rufosuperciliata.—BRAZIL: Itatiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro (K. J. Zimmer, 13); Fazenda Pindobas IV, Espírito Santo (K. J. Zimmer, 2); São Francisco de Paula region, Rio Grande do Sul (K. J. Zimmer, 10); Serra do Caraça, Minas Gerais (K. J. Zimmer, 3); Serra da Graciosa, Paraná (K. J. Zimmer, 1). PERU: Cosñipata Road, dpto. Cusco (K. J. Zimmer, 2). PARAGUAY: dpto. Caazapá (M. B. Robbins, MLNS 120483).

Syndactyla ruficollis.—PERU: Abra Porculla, dpto. Piura (K. J. Zimmer, 6); Tumbes Reserved Zone, dpto. Tumbes (K. J. Zimmer, 1); ECUADOR: prov. Loja (M. B. Robbins, 1; MLNS 57080).

Simoxenops ucayalae.—BRAZIL: Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso (K. J. Zimmer, 3); rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta region, Mato Grosso (K. J. Zimmer, 4); Serra dos Carajás, Pará (K. J. Zimmer, 4). PERU: Tambopata Research Center, dpto. Madre de Dios (K. J. Zimmer, 2).

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Some taxonomic comments on the genus *Polyplectron* (Phasianidae)

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Received 10 August 2004

An instance of possible priority arises in relation to one of the subspecies of Grey Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* (Linnaeus, 1758), namely *P. b. bakeri* Lowe, 1925. The type locality of Lowe's name is 'Bhutan Doars', and the current distribution of the race is north-east India, in Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. Several earlier names appear to have been available for this race when Lowe applied his name¹, specifically:

Polyplectron cyclospilum G. R. Gray, 1867. *List of the specimens of birds in the British Museum*, pt. 5, Gallinae, p. 23; and

Polyplectron enicospilum G. R. Gray, 1867. *List of the specimens of birds in the British Museum*, pt. 5, Gallinae, p. 24.

However, it appears that Lowe's separation racially of birds from north-east India and Bhutan was invalid. MPW compared skins at The Natural History Museum (NHM, Tring) of nominate *bicalcaratum* with the type of *bakeri* and could

¹ Anyone familiar with *Polyplectron hardwickii* J. E. Gray, 1830–32, *Illustrations of Indian zoology, chiefly selected from the collection of Maj.-Gen. Hardwicke*, 1: pl. 37, whose type locality is given as 'India' might wonder whether this name does not also predate Lowe's *bakeri*. However, examination of the plate makes it clear that this is an instance of *Polyplectron malacense* (Scopoli, 1786). Ogilvie-Grant (1893, *Catalogue of the birds of the British Museum* 22: 259) correctly gives the type locality of *P. hardwickii* and *P. lineatum* J. E. Gray, 1829, as 'Malacca' (the locality of the latter being given by Gray as 'China').

find no difference, with the characters described by Lowe unobservable in the *bakeri* skins. Both the ground colour and colour of the pale speckles in *bakeri* appear identical to those in nominate specimens. MPW also examined the types of G. R. Gray's *cyclospilum* and *enicospilum*, the type locality of which was given by G. R. Gray only as 'N. E. India', and found them to agree rather better with each other than with the type of *bakeri*. The latter has rather smaller pale speckles and some of the iridescent spots possess a short black 'tail' reaching into the white fringe, but this appears to be mere individual variation². Accordingly, it seems justified to merge *P. b. bakeri* Lowe, 1925, with nominate *bicalcaratum*, and to treat G. R. Gray's 1867 names as synonyms of nominate *bicalcaratum*.

Given the level of individual variation within *P. bicalcaratum*, we checked specimens of other races of the species. An examination by MPW of the type of *bailyi* Lowe, 1925, whose range is given by Madge & McGowan (2002) as 'E Himalayas (probably NE India but locality of specimens uncertain)', revealed none of the differences listed by Lowe. Specimens in the NHM collection identified as *ghigii* Delacour & Jabouille, 1924, whose distribution to quote Madge & McGowan (2002) is 'C Laos and N and C Vietnam', were also examined. Again, no difference could be found in either ground colour or that of the speckles. The distinction Delacour & Jabouille (1924) make concerning the ocelli appears in some specimens but not in others, thus suggesting again that these are matters of individual variation alone, and leading us to propose that *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* (Linnaeus, 1758) be treated as monotypic.

References:

- Delacour, J. & Jabouille, P. 1924. [Twelve new species and subspecies from French Indochina]. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 45: 28–35.
- Lowe, D. 1925. Some notes on the genus *Polyplectron*. *Ibis* (12) 1: 476–484.
- Madge, S. & McGowan, P. 2002. *Pheasants, partridges and grouse*. Christopher Helm, London.

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² The copy of G. R. Gray (1867) at Tring is interleaved and annotated, probably by Sharpe, and these annotations equate G. R. Gray's *cyclospilum*, *enicospilum* and *atelospilum* with 'thibetanum', presumably *Polyplectron thibetanum* Hume & Davison, 1878, *Stray Feathers* 6: 432, 521 (north and central Tenasserim). Since the latter name is now synonymised with nominate *bicalcaratum*, this seems further reason to synonymise *bakeri* with nominate *bicalcaratum*.